QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE WHEATON LIBRARY REFERENDUM, OCT. 19, 1963

A LOOK BACK --- The building housing the Wheaton Public Library was built in 1891 by John Quincy Adams as a memorial to his wife. It has been operated as the Wheaton Public Library since 1920.

QUESTIONS --- ANSWERS

Q. How long has the Board planned for the new library building?

A. Since 1955 when a report by Library Consultants stated: book stacks, seating space, toilet facilities, parking, public meeting rooms, and work space were all inadequate. The cut-up interior, crowded study area, and four level operation make supervision and service difficult. Because of recent changes in educational methods, children, young people and adults require more library resources than ever.

Q. Why not enlarge and remodel the Adams building?

A. This was carefully considered, but proved too costly for benefits gained. Building would still be inadequate with no parking.

Q. Can the present building provide shelf space for the books Wheaton should have?

A. No. Library standards recommend two to three volumes per capita. The present collection of 42,000 volumes, 10,000 short of the minimum, could not be shelved if all the books were returned at one time.

Q. Has readership kept pace with population increase?

A. Yes. In 1953 the population of Wheaton was 11,574 with 5,820 registered borrowers, and a circulation of 92,689. In 1963 population is 26,263, there are 17,655 borrowers, and circulation 235,000.

Q. Is property available for a new library building?

A. Yes. At an opportune time, the City of Wheaton purchased residential property on Cross Street east of Adams Park.

Q. Is this a desirable location?

A. Yes. The library building, facing Adams Park, will add architectural beauty to the City. The site was recommended by the Wheaton Civic Commission after a survey.

Q. What will the new building provide?

A. Adequate space for readers, books, services, and parking. Room to grow.

Q. Will a new library increase real estate taxes?

A. No. The City is now levying $40,000 per year (approximately $4.70 per $10,000 assessed valuation) for library building purposes. This will be replaced with a levy of approximately $32,000 per year (about $3.50 per $10,000 assessed valuation) which will cover the interest and principal on the $455,000 twenty year bond issue to be authorized at the Oct. 19 referendum.

Q. Who has endorsed the library building program?

A. The Board of Library Directors, the Mayor and the City Council have unanimously approved the library program and referendum. Leaders of civic groups have indicated they will enthusiastically support the program.

Q. What will happen to the present library building?

A. The building is owned by the Adams Memorial Library Trust and its future use will be determined by the Adams Trustees.

Q. What are we waiting for?

A. Your "yes" vote on Oct. 19th. Plans are ready. Site is waiting. We would like to put our eight years of planning into a new, efficient, adequate library which Wheaton's citizens desperately need --- a building Wheaton will be proud to own.

Q. Where may I get further information?

A. From the Librarian, Marjorie Lincoln, and members of the Library Board: Berlyn Pierce, Peter Veltman, B. P. O'Donnell, Robert Headen, Frank Niswander, Mrs. R. C. Brown, Mrs. William Bye, Mrs. Louis Stucker, and Miss Joann Webster.

Cost of this flyer courtesy of the Friends of the Wheaton Public Library.